

Before the Paling of the Stars

to Lauren

Christina G. Rossetti

J. Edmund Hughes

SSA, unis. 3
 Optional Solo/Soli *mp* plaintive

Gently rocking $\text{♩} = 50$

Unis.

Piano or Handbells *p*

Piano RH (or bells)
 Optional: windchimes before introduction and played softly through the first verse.

Be - fore the pal - ing of the stars, be -

poco

fore the win - ter morn, be - fore the ear - liest cock - crow,

*Soprano I 12
 (Tutti) *mf* fuller

Je - sus Christ was born. Born in a sta - ble,

*All parts should be equally balanced through canon section (mm. 12-23).

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The optional handbell part is available as a separate publication SBMP 670.1

Before the Paling of the Stars

by Christina Georgina Rossetti, English (1830-1894)

(stanza 1 and 3)

Before the paling of the stars,
 Before the winter morn,
 Before the earliest cock crow,
 Jesus Christ was born:
 Born in a stable,
 Cradled in a manger,
 In the world his hands had made
 Born a stranger.

Jesus on his mother's breast
 In the stable cold,
 Spotless lamb of God was he,
 Shepherd of the fold:
 Let us kneel with Mary maid,
 With Joseph bent and hoary,
 With saint and angel, ox and ass,
 To hail the King of Glory.

To see the complete scores of additional pieces
 by J. Edmund Hughes, or to read his bio, visit
www.sbmp.com



16

S
cra - dled in a man - ger, in the world his hands were made,

(Tutti)
mf fuller

S
Born in a sta - ble, cra - dled in a man - ger,

(Tutti)
mf fuller

A
Born in a sta - ble,

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20

born a stran - ger.

in the world his hands were made, born a stran - ger.

cra - dled in a man - ger, in the world his hands were made,

25 *warmly*

Je - sus on his moth - er's breast
 Je - sus on his moth - er's breast
 born a stran - ger. Al - le

29

in the sta - ble cold, Spot - less lamb of God was he,
 in the sta - ble cold, Spot - less lamb of God was he,
 lu - ia. Al - le

Greensleeves (16th Century)

34 *f joyful*

Shep - herd of the fold. Let us kneel with
 Shep - herd of the fold. Let us kneel with
 lu - ia! Let us kneel with

38

Mar - y maid, with Jo - seph bent and hoar - y, with saint and an - gel,
 Mar - y maid, with Jo - seph bent and hoar - y, with saint and an - gel,
 Mar - y maid, with Jo - seph bent and hoar - y, with saint and an - gel,

ox and ass, — to hail the King of Glo - ry.
 ox and ass, to hail the King of Glo - ry.
 ox and ass, to hail the King of Glo - ry.

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mp 44

Be - fore the pal - ing of — the stars, be - fore the win - ter
mp
 Be - fore the pal - ing of — the stars, be - fore the win - ter
mp Lower Alto optional
 Be - fore the pal - ing of — the stars, be - fore the win - ter

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54

born.

Je - sus Christ_ was born.

*Optional Solo/Soli *p* freely, non accented

Je - sus Christ_ was born.

SSA, unis. *rit.* *ppp*

rit. *ppp*

*If performed as Solo/Soli, distribute other voices evenly on Soprano I and II.
670-6

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